



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 461

February Session, 2008

House Bill No. 5024

House of Representatives, April 4, 2008

The Committee on Commerce reported through REP. BERGER of the 73rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL TREASURES ACCOUNT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) There is established an
2 account to be known as the "cultural treasures account", which shall be
3 a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account
4 shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the
5 account.

6 (b) The moneys in said account shall be expended by the
7 Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism for the purpose of
8 providing grant funds to individuals, institutions and organizations
9 for creating, preserving, promoting and expanding nonprofit arts and
10 cultural activities in the state provided the funds are distributed as
11 follows: Not less than twenty-five per cent to nonprofit arts and
12 cultural institutions, organizations and individuals with annual
13 operating budgets of less than one million dollars.

14 (c) The Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism shall

15 award grants provided in subsection (b) of this section to such
16 individuals, institutions and organizations based on criteria, including,
17 but not limited to: (1) Cultural merit, (2) financial strength, (3)
18 management accountability, (4) community involvement, (5) visitors
19 per year, (6) number of students served, (7) historic value, and (8) the
20 percentage of available state funds compared to nongovernmental
21 funds.

22 (d) Before awarding any grants pursuant to subsection (b) of this
23 section, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism shall
24 make any and all criteria established pursuant to subsection (c) of this
25 section available to applicants.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2008	New section

CE *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes the Cultural Treasures account, a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund, to be administered by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCCT). sHB 5021 as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee on March 26, 2008 does not contain funding for this account.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5024*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL TREASURES ACCOUNT.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a separate, nonlapsing General Fund account to fund arts and cultural activities. The fund must contain any money the law requires to be deposited in the fund, but the bill appropriates no amount. The Connecticut Commission on Cultural and Tourism (CCCT) may use the account to grant funds to people, institutions, and organizations for creating, preserving, promoting, and expanding arts and cultural activities sponsored nonprofit organizations.

CCCT must reserve at least 25% of the account's funds for entities with annual operating budgets under \$1 million. It must award the grants based cultural merit, financial strength, management accountability, community involvement, visitors per year, number of students served, historic value, the ratio of state and private dollars, and other criteria CCCT may impose.

CCCT must provide these criteria to applicants before it can award any grants. It currently provides grants to arts and cultural institutions under many different purposes. For example, it gives grants to schools, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations for performances, art lectures, and workshops. It also provides grants to cultural nonprofit organizations to improve buildings and structures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/18/2008)